



NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF KANSAS THEATRE

the marquee • volume 15 no. 1

Fall 1988

For Hutchinson Convention

AACT/FEST Planning Heats Up!

It may be cool outside, but plans for the 1989 Kansas AACT/FEST are heating up.

In case you've forgotten what Kansas AACT/FEST is, let me jog your memory. The Kansas AACT/FEST is a weekend festival to be held March 10-12, 1989 in Hutchinson. It is sponsored by the Association of Kansas Theatre and hosted by the Hutchinson Theatre

Plans Continue For Workshops

I want to thank all of you who have sent in ideas for convention workshops. Children's Theatre and Theatre For Young People seem to head the list. I find this most encouraging! I think everyone is beginning to realize that if we don't start involving people in theatre at a young age, we soon won't have any theatre!

Looking over last year's responses to the many fine workshops that were held in Wichita, some are a shoo-in to be repeated. The workshop on "Grants" was unanimously praised — everyone felt this should be a standard offering at every convention! Another highly rated workshop was the one on "Board Development and Organization." All of us in Community Theatre work with boards of directors. How board members are selected, and how the board is organized to govern and manage can mean the difference between success and failure of an organization.

Other workshops being considered are: "Costuming on a Limited Budget," "How to Market Your Play AND Your Theatre," "Directing Seminar," and "Volunteer Management." This last is very important, especially in Community Theatre, since most of us are totally dependent on volunteer manpower.

I still need *ideas* — so if you have a favorite topic you would like to see explored, please let me hear from you.

Charles Kephart
Workshop Program Chair

Guild and Hutchinson Community College Department of Drama.

At this festival, a selected number of community theatres from around the state will present a one-hour theatrical production to be adjudicated by our guest judges.

The purpose of the festival is to promote community theatre in our state, to gain knowledge and understanding through workshops and the adjudication process, and to get to know one another and share our ideas on theatre.

Latest Information

William Brewer, professor of theatre at Hutchinson Community College, recently conducted a tour of the new fine arts facility on the campus "A-1" and "First Class" is what we have in store for you. This facility is brand new and one of the best designed and equipped theatres that I have seen in a while. Kansas AACT/FEST will be one of the first major events to be held in the new auditorium.

Accommodations

The Best Western Sundome will serve as the official hotel for the festival. The staff is excited about the theatre weekend and plans to

reserve our rooms around the indoor swimming pool so that we may gather and relax poolside after our busy day of theatre.

The Sundome also offers a hottub, sauna, and exercise room. Also, excellent food may be found at the Mesquite Tree Restaurant in the hotel.

Because the Class AAA Basketball Championship is also being held in Hutchinson the same weekend as the festival, when hotel reservations information becomes available, please reserve your rooms quickly.

Entries

We have received inquiries from many theatres for production entry information. There are still spaces available at this time for plays to be presented. If your theatre is interested in participating in the festival, please contact me at:

Denny Vick
c/o Hutchinson Theatre Guild
P.O. Box 993
Hutchinson, KS 67504

We in Hutchinson look forward to seeing all of you come March 1989, so start planning now.

Denny Vick
AACT/FEST Chair



The Parklane Shopping Center, located on South Oliver, between Lincoln and Harry Streets in southeast Wichita, is the new home of the AKT Central Office. New Executive Director John A. Gedraitis invites members to drop in whenever you're in the Wichita area. "The coffee pot's always on. Just give me a call (316-685-9306) to make sure I'll be in, and then come on by!"

Arts Funding Extended To Rural Areas

The availability of arts funding and programs to rural communities is being increased through the **Rural Arts Initiative**, a new program established by the **Kansas Arts Commission (KAC)** in cooperation with the **Association of Community Arts Agencies of Kansas (ACAANK)**.

ACAANK helps Kansas towns to develop community-based arts organizations capable of providing quality arts experiences for their citizens. These local arts councils can apply to the Commission for grants for partial funding for arts programs.

The Rural Arts Initiative is a concentrated effort to provide cultural development opportunities to communities that lie outside metropolitan areas and have populations under 20,000. In addition, communities must not have received major grant funding from the Kansas Arts Commission during the past two fiscal years to be eligible for Rural Arts Initiative grants.

Local organizations such as school districts, chambers of commerce, libraries, civic groups, senior citizen centers, churches, hospitals, and units of city or county government may apply to participate.

Those who meet the Rural Arts eligibility requirements may apply for Rural Arts Special Project grants to cover up to 75 percent of expenses to support indigenous local or regional activities, such as an exhibition, art class, festival, community theatre, orchestra or choir.

Other Kansas Arts Commission funding programs are available to eligible organizations from rural communities, which may apply for up to 75 percent of the artist fees to bring in a performing artist or artists from the Kansas Touring Program for performances, workshops or master classes.

In addition, artists from the Arts in Education roster may be selected for residencies of three to five days in an eligible community with Commission support for up to 75 percent of the artist fee.

(Continued on Page 4)

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From The President

I am pleased with what AKT has accomplished these past few months, and I want to share my excitement for upcoming Kansas theatre events. **John Gedraitis**, our new Executive Director, has set up the central office in Wichita and is learning his new job quickly. If you're in Wichita, drop by and see John at the new AKT headquarters, 1081 Parklane, Suite #120B. John's motto is, "The coffee pot's always on." Stop in and see how good that coffee is!

• • • • •

You should have received recently the membership brochure. Dues have not increased this year for the basic individual and organizational categories, but we reworked the contributing categories in an effort to encourage more substantial gifts in these areas. Renew your membership **today** and encourage your colleagues who are not members to join. AKT needs solid representation from **all** theatre divisions across the state.

• • • • •

Two major events we need to plan for are the AKT Convention, March 10-12 in Hutchinson, and the ACTF Regional Festival, February 22-26 in Lawrence.

Jackie Hinton, this year's convention chair, is doing a wonderful job of organizing a full weekend of activities.

Our 1989 AACT/FEST competition and a wide variety of workshops will occur in the new Hutchinson Community College theatre complex.

Denny Vick, **Bill Brewer** and **Steve Mills** are working hard on the AACT/FEST activities and local arrangements.

Charles Kephart of Salina is coordinating workshops and programs.

Contact these people if you have ideas for what you would like to see at the 1989 AKT Convention.

• • • • •

I also encourage everyone to support this year's ACTF Regional Festival. These festivals are an exciting educational and entertaining experience. They provide an opportunity to see some of the best university theatre from a four-state area. There will also be workshops and the opportunity to network with a lot of university theatre artists. We are fortunate to have the Regional back in Kansas.

• • • • •

In the meantime, there is a wealth of theatre activity across the state. We are all busy, but we must find time to get out of our own little environments and see theatre elsewhere. Our work is enhanced when we see theatre away from home.

Some of us also need to do a better job of supporting other theatres within our own cities. Resist the temptation to stay at home and don't think your theatre is the only one worth watching. See as much theatre as you can, keep building your skills, and come to convention in March and share those skills with others.

Lynn Black
AKT President

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Southwestern Bell Issues Grants Guidelines

The 1989 Kansas Arts Excellence Program is Southwestern Bell Foundation's way of saying the Kansas arts community is important to the state, its people and its businesses.

In cooperation with the Association of Kansas Theatre and the Association of Community Arts Agencies of Kansas, Southwestern Bell Foundation is offering the program to support theatres and local arts agencies.

Arts excellence grants totaling \$80,000 from Southwestern Bell Foundation are being offered in three categories: Arts Agency Educational Projects, Special Developmental Projects and Theatrical Production Underwriting.

Arts Excellence grants will be awarded based on local cultural needs, the quality of a sponsoring group's past activities, opportunity for local promotions and grant availability.

Applicants will be notified of acceptance or denial before May 30.

Criteria For All Applicants

- Must be located within Southwestern Bell Telephone's Kansas service area.
- Must have a board of directors comprised of local citizens.
- Must have existed for at least one year before requesting a grant.
- Must be financially solvent.
- Must have 501 (c) (3) tax exempt status under the code of the Internal Revenue Service.
- Must meet specific criteria listed under category description.

Grant Application Guidelines

— A completed application must be returned to the applicant's Southwestern Bell Telephone Community Relations Manager by March 15.

— Only **one** application per category will be accepted.

— Grant requests must include the following:

- Previous year's financial report or audit
- Current operating budget
- Playbills or programs from at least two previous productions or activities
- Completed standard budget page (provided with grant application form).
- Proof of 501 (c) (3) tax exempt status.

Evaluation

Within 90 days following the completion of a funded project or production, grant recipients must submit a written evaluation of the event along with a financial report, playbill or program, attendance summary and samples of advertising and media coverage.

Failure to submit evaluation will cause organization to be ineligible for future grants.

Categories

1) Arts Agency Educational Project

Total grant money available: \$20,000

Category guidelines:

- Applicant must be a member of the Association of Community Arts Agencies of Kansas.
- Applicant must meet the following definition of a local arts agency: "Applicant is a multi-disciplined, community based organization."
- A significant portion of the project must be designed to enhance arts education in local schools or with various constituency groups.

- If project includes a workshop, seminar, professional appearance, etc., facilitators and speakers must be identified.

2) Special Developmental Projects

Total grant money available: \$10,000

Category guidelines:

- Applicant must be a member of the Association of Kansas Theatre (University/College and Professional theatres are not eligible).
- Applicants must meet the following definition of a community theatre: "A duly constituted theater, comprised of performers from different walks of life, with its main focus and purpose being theatrical performances."
- Requests for capital improvements such as equipment and building projects will not be considered.
- If project includes a workshop, seminar, or professional appearance, facilitators and speakers must be identified.
- Requests must fit one of the following three project areas:
 - A) *Artist in Residence* — allows a community theatre to bring in a director, designer, costumer, playwright, musical director, choreographer or professional actor/actress for the purpose of upgrading the quality of production and teaching the working members of the theatre group new techniques in some aspect of production.
 - B) *Project Assistance/Development* — allows a community theatre to launch, improve or expand a supplemental theatrical program such as a children's theatre, senior adult theatre, readers' theatre or an experimental theatre program.
 - C) *Technical/Management Assistance* — allows a community theatre to hire a consultant in theatre management to help set goals and objectives, develop appropriate bylaws, establish a financial accounting system or develop more effective methods for recruiting and retaining volunteers.

Theatrical Production Underwriting

Total Available: \$50,000

Category Guidelines:

- Must be an amateur theatre organization.
- Grant money must be used to support a theatrical production, designed for public attendance.

Application forms, brochures and additional information about the Southwestern Bell Foundation Arts Excellence Program can be obtained by calling the Southwestern Bell Telephone Community Relations Manager in your area.

Marquee

Marquee is published four times a year as a membership service of the Association of Kansas Theatre, Inc. Members are encouraged to submit information and articles about their work, special interests, honors/awards, or issues of concern to the general membership.

The mention of any product, service, publication, conference, workshop, meeting, etc., in *Marquee* does not constitute endorsement or sponsorship, nor is it an indication of quality by *Marquee* or the AKT unless specifically stated.

Marquee is a publication of the AKT Central Office, 1081 Parklane, Suite #120B, Wichita, KS 67218. Telephone: (316) 685-9306.

John A. Gedraitis, Executive Director/Editor

Marquee Miscellany

Sympathy is extended to the family of **Betty Jean Stark**, theatrical costume designer and long-time AKT member, who passed away in Winfield, October 22. Plans are in the works to establish a scholarship in her honor through AKT. Details will be printed in the *Marquee* when they become available.

Zanada Overpeck, administrator of the Neodesha Arts Association, reports the recent completion of a production of *Harvey*, "... which was a terrific success." The project was partially funded by a Southwestern Bell Foundation grant.

Gerald Snider, Johnson County Community College; **Charles Kephart**, Salina Community Theatre; and **Jackie Hinton**, Atchison Performing Arts Association, attended a Kansas Arts Commission grant writing workshop at Manhattan September 1. The workshop centered around how to request money which is now available to the arts from lottery-generated funds.

A Southwestern Bell Foundation grant, coupled with a grant from IBM, also assisted the Tonganoxie

Community Theatre's recent production of *Annie*. Secretary **Dorlene Mark** reports that the group also received a grant to present an original musical currently being written by TCT president **Frank Gilgin**.

Dorothy Myers, corresponding secretary of the Derby Community Theatre, is the first member to visit the new AKT Library in Wichita. She reports that the Derby group recently celebrated its first anniversary. During their initial year, they produced *Barefoot In The Park*

Rural Funding ...

(Continued from Page 2)

Application for Rural Arts Special Project grants must be submitted at least one month before a planned event. Applications will be reviewed as they are received, and funds will be awarded until exhausted. The last day to apply will be **May 1, 1989**, and all funded activities must be completed by **June 30, 1989**.

Through a grant from the Commission, **Ms. Gloria Throne** of rural Douglas County has been hired by ACAAK to help coordinate the program and assist rural communities. Part of the program emphasis also will be statewide, through a cultural resource and needs assessment and a rural arts conference in the spring of 1989.

Guidelines, funding criteria and application forms will soon be available for the Rural Arts Initiative. For more information, contact the Kansas Arts Commission, Jayhawk Tower, 700 Jackson, Suite 1004, Topeka, KS 66603-3714; 913/296-3335, or ACAAK, Box 62, Oberlin, KS 67749, 913/475-3913.

and *Once Upon A Mattress*. Plans now call for a "sweetheart play" to be produced in a dinner theatre setting in February for Valentine's Day.

Items for inclusion in this column should be sent to the AKT Central Office. Remember: we will know what your theatre is doing only if you tell us!

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One of the more popular "perks" available with AKT membership is access to the association's script library. More than 600 titles are available, either in the new library in the central office, or by mail. Reading copies of scripts may be mailed to members for only the cost of return postage.

Script Library Offers Hits, Classics

One of the more popular "perks" of AKT membership is the opportunity to use the association's script library for reading copies of scripts — both contemporary and "classic."

More than 600 play titles, including recent Broadway hits, childrens plays, popular old chestnuts, etc., are currently on file.

A list of all plays catalogued is published annually in the *Marquee*, and frequent updates keep members informed of new additions to the collection. Members may borrow scripts by mail for the price of return postage.

With the opening of the new AKT Central Office in Wichita, an area

has been set aside to house the library, and visitors are welcome to use the facility at any time. Hours are by appointment. (Translation: Call ahead and John will be waiting for you when you arrive.)

In order to continue to provide scripts members are most interested in, money has been set aside in this year's budget to purchase additions to the collection. **Members are requested to submit suggestions for plays to be purchased to John at the AKT Central Office.**

Comments, suggestions, etc., concerning the library should be directed to any member of the board, or directly to John at 316-685-9306.

'Dear Abby' Offers Support To Theatres

Jackie Hinton, Atchison Performing Arts Association, sends along the following clipping taken from her local newspaper. "Dear Abby" reaches literally millions of readers each day. There is no way we could afford to *buy* that kind of exposure.

Dear Abby

Abigail Van Buren



DEAR ABBY: A short time ago you suggested that people take old, unused clothing to the Goodwill after cleaning out their closets. May I make another suggestion? If the clothing is really old, you might consider calling your local community theater group. Old, donated clothing forms the basis of its costume department.

According to Mary Alden, volunteer costumer for the Lakeshore Theater in White Bear Lake, Minn., the types of things they really need are formal wear, men's suits, uniforms, boots and hats. Also costume jewelry, and accessories such as parasols, fans, feather boas, lace and other types of trim, and any old apparel in good condition that dates back 40 years or more.

Those lonely people who write to you might also consider their community theaters when donating their talents. There are hundreds of jobs that need to be done other than acting, and never enough hands at most theaters to do them. Any retired carpenters? Painters? Artists?

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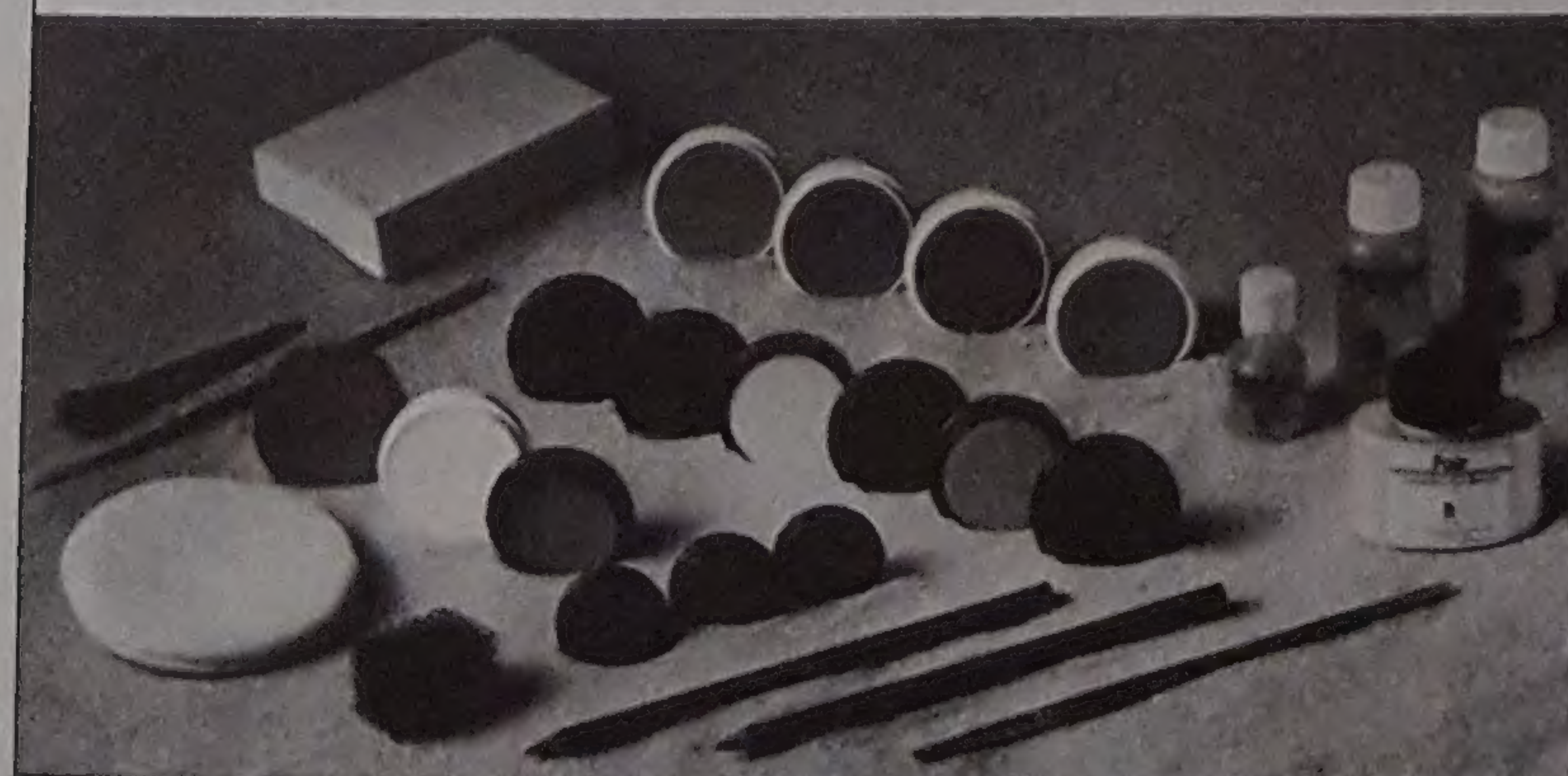
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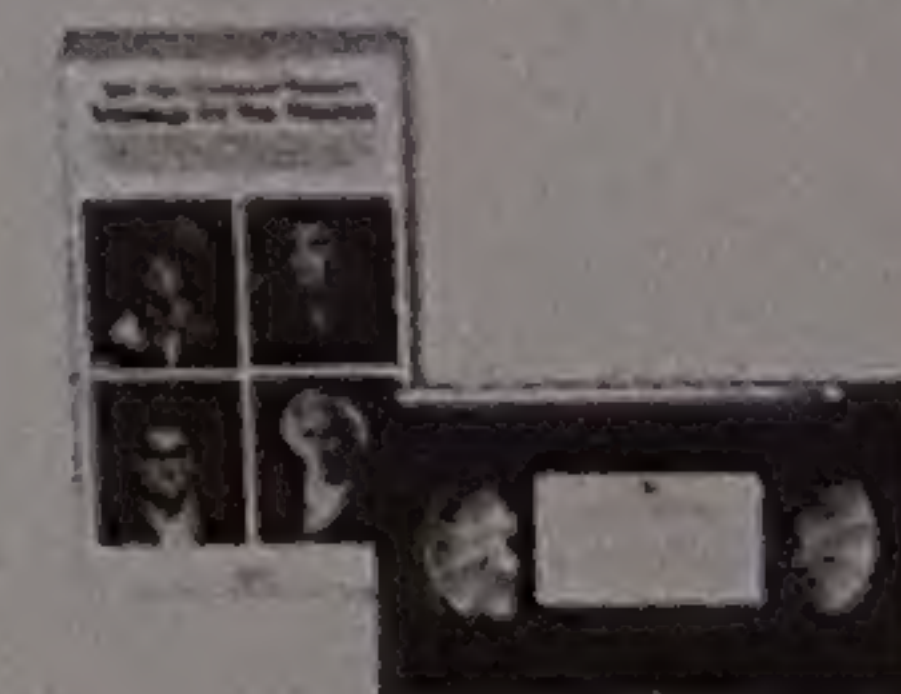
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Kansas Thespian Society Plans Wichita Convention

The Kansas Thespian Society will hold its annual State Conference at Wichita Heights High School, 5301 N. Hillside, in Wichita, December 9-10.

Theme for the conference is "*Kansas State Thespians: Promoting The Performing Arts In Kansas!*"

Further information concerning the convention is available from:

Kristin Anshutz, State Director
Salina Central High School
Front & Crawford Streets
Salina, Kansas 67401
913-823-6346.

The conference will feature college scholarship auditions (colleges from both Kansas and out-of-state have indicated they will be attending); vendor displays; an All-State Cast production of Neil Simon's *California Suite*; productions of one-act plays, and a series of 20-25 workshops, highlighted by make-up presentations by **Bob Kelly**.

Housing — included in the registration fee — will be provided at

the Red Coach Inn, I-135 at 53rd Street North, Wichita.

The Kansas State Thespian Society, founded in 1929, is an educational organization which promotes excellence in theatre arts in the secondary schools. It is affiliated with, and subject to the general supervision of, the International Thespian Society.

"Being involved in a Thespian troupe has a number of advantages for a high school student," Anshutz said. "It provides a chance to compete for college scholarships provided by both the state and international organizations, and it provides the opportunity for stu-

dents to attend conferences on both the state and international level, where they can meet other theatre students, view productions, and continue to learn through workshops presented by theatre people from all around the country.

"Membership also provides a subscription to *Dramatics*, the only theatre magazine geared toward high school students.

"For schools," Anshutz continued, "Thespian membership includes a royalty reduction on plays, access to a large script library, a chance to network with other theatre teachers across the country, and, of course, the state and international conferences."

Contributors

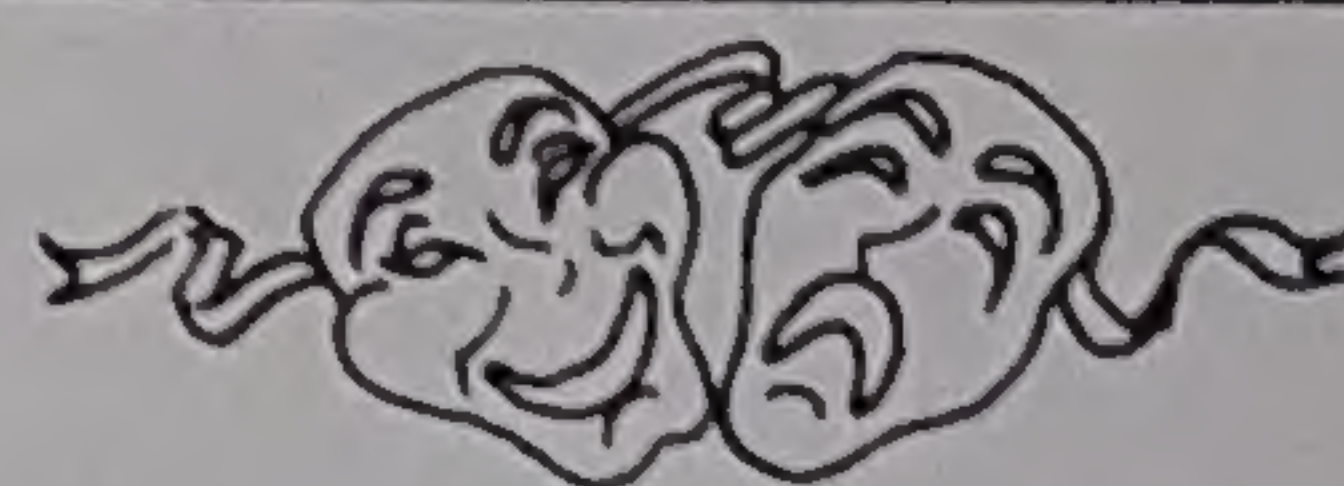
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AKT is supported in part by the
Kansas Arts Commission and the
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MARQUEE has been underwritten by a generous grant from



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